

Remarks

Claims 1-11 were examined and acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. No claim has been canceled and no new claim has been added, leaving claims 1-11 in the case.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lopez et al. in view of Shetty. Claim 1 has been amended in some particularities as to the snap-fit structure of the component. More particularly, the metal construct is provided with an internal groove and the bearing construct is provided with a flange adapted to snap into the groove to provide the snap-fit connection of the two constructs. Still more particularly, the flange is of substantially annular configuration and extends from the bearing construct outer wall outwardly and distally. The metal construct is limited to an inwardly-projecting rail which in part defines the groove. Still further, the flange is limited to being undercut by a substantially annular groove, such that the flange is adapted to flex distally to override the rail and snap into the metal construct groove.

In short, the interengagement of the two constructs is defined by claim 1 in detail and differs from the construction

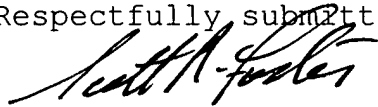
of Lopez, which appears to be the closest art in this aspect of the invention. In view of the amendments to claim 1, it appears that claim 1 stands clear of the teachings of Lopez, and the other cited art and is in allowable condition.

Claims 2-11 all depend directly from claim 1 and should be deemed allowable, at least through dependency.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Foster

Registration No. 20,570

Pandiscio & Pandiscio

470 Totten Pond Road

Waltham, MA 02451-1914

Tel. (781) 290-0060

KK/HAYES4.AMD